



ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINEE COMMITTEE

10th September 2019

The Government's Resource and Waste Strategy was published in December 2018. From this, four consultations were released in February 2019, and Havering responded to these in May 2019. The consultations were as follows:

1. Consistency in Household and Business Recycling Collections
2. Introducing a Deposit Return Scheme
3. Reforming the UK Packaging Producer Responsibility System
4. Introducing a Plastic Packaging Tax

The Government has now published its summaries of all responses gathered, with proposed next steps. Outlined below are those parts of the responses pertinent to Havering and its waste collection and street cleansing services.

1. Consistency in Collections

1.1. **Core materials for recycling**

1.2. Government will work to mandate for all LAs to collect 6 core materials for recycling by 2023, and will consider how this may be complimented by a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS).

1.3. The final list will be informed by any decisions on an Extended Producer Responsibility scheme, but will likely include:

- glass bottles and containers – including drinks bottles, condiment bottles, jars
- paper and card – including newspaper, cardboard packaging, writing paper
- plastic bottles – including clear drinks containers, HDPE (milk containers), detergent, shampoo and cleaning products
- plastic pots tubs and trays
- steel and aluminium tins and cans
- Consideration for food/drinks cartons

These will be subject to regular review for additions / removals and best practice guidance will be created around the potential for separate collection of these.

1.4. **Separate food waste collections**

1.4.1. Government will legislate for separate collections of food waste from all households, but will take local circumstances into account. It is unclear how this might work from an ELWA perspective, and whether the presence of the MBT treatment may mean that a separate collection is not required. Consideration will also be made as to whether caddy liners should be provided free of charge. Support required by LAs (financial, communications etc.) will be considered.

1.5. **Free garden waste collections**

1.5.1. Further consideration to be given due to cost implications.

1.6. Service Standards

1.6.1. Statutory guidance will be produced in conjunction with LAs and other stakeholders. This will likely cover things such as minimum frequencies for residual waste collection.

1.7. Other items

1.7.1. Businesses and public bodies required to recycle, including separating food waste for treatment – proposals in 2020. This may present an opportunity to reform internal waste management at Havering Council.

1.7.2. Government will continue to provide and develop communications campaigns through WRAP.

1.7.3. Government to trial different methods of gathering non-binding performance indicators and alternatives to weight-based metrics.

2. Deposit Return Scheme (DRS)

2.1. Introduce from 2023, possibly earlier. Help to reduce litter, increase recycling rates and material quality.

2.2. Likely to include PET/HDPE bottles, cans and glass bottles.

2.3. Government is currently carrying out further evidence gathering and analysis, with a further consultation in 2020.

3. Reforming Packaging Producer Responsibility

3.1. Responders were broadly supportive of net cost recovery – obligating producers to cover the costs of collection, infrastructure, transport, treatment and clean-up of certain packaging items. This would cover both waste collection and litter, however more work is being done to assess the implications (e.g. around capacity for reprocessing), and how funding might be allocated.

3.2. More research to be carried out into fees and incentives to encourage more sustainable packaging, as well as mandatory labelling.

4. Introduction of a Plastic Packaging Tax

4.1. Responses largely in agreement, but more research into the scope (e.g. types of packaging) to be carried out. Draft legislation to be consulted on in 2020.